**House Panel Probes Intelligence Agency Ties**

# OMB Examiners' Allegiance Hit

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When the government's intelligence agencies submit their secret budgets to the White House for review, most of the budget examiners are "alumni' of the intelligence agencies, the House intelligence committee established yesterday.

The Office of Management and Budget, Director James T. Lynn testified yesterday, has a unit of six people who are responsible for going over the secret budgets submitted by the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and others.

Four of the six exmainers are veterans of those agencies, Lynn acknowledged, but he insisted that this doesn't indicate any favorable treatment in the OMB review process.

Further, the CIA's deputy controller who prepares the agency's budget is an "Alumnus" of OMB. He used to work there as an examiner of CIA budgets.

Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.) suggested that the "old-school ties" of personnel in OMB and other agencies create "a quasiclosed society without civilian accountability."

Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) went a bit further and suggested that, in addition to the "alumni" of intelligence agencies, the OMB and the CIA are overburdened with Ivy League alumni. Pike named several OMB officials who are graduates of Harvard, Princeton and Yale, including Donald G. Ogilvie, the OMB associate director for national security and international affairs.

The Pike asked: "Did the director of the CIA also go to Princeton?"

"Oh, my gosh," Lynn replied with evident scorn for the committee chairman's insinuation that William E. Colby's Princeton background would somehow win him special treatment from OMB examiners.

"If it will make you feel better," Pike replied, "I went to Princeton. Mr. Field [the committee's chief counsel] went to Princeton . . . Isn't it possible that you could operate with a staff that's more representative of America? It's just conceivable that there is too much loading in certain elements of your operation with former CIA operators, former Ivy Leaguers."

Lynn objected vigorously to the suggestion that OMB examiners might be loyal to their former agency or their college rather than to the White House budget agency.

"I think you have to take each person as he or she is and look at them," Lynn said. "There's always a chance for abuse . . . But I don't think you can do general surgery there and say to a person, 'Once you've been in the CIA, stay out of the government'."

The committee's questioning established these past associations of OMB officials:

Emery Donaldson, 20 years with CIA; William Mitchell, 10 years with CIA; Arnold Donohue, 5 years with CIA; Michael Driggs, 3 years in military intelligence. James Taylor, deputy controller of the CIA, was formerly an OMB examiner handling intelligence matters, according to Rep. Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.).

Beyond that subject, the House committee got very little concrete information out of Lynn during a full day of public interrogation. On issue after issue, the OMB director begged off answering on security grounds and promised to be more forthcoming after the doors were closed late in the afternoon.

Lynn asserted that the CIA and other intelligence agencies, though their budgets are secret by law, go through the same rigorous examination that OMB gives to other agencies and departments of the federal government. A number of the members of Congress expressed skepticism on that point.

Committee counsel Searle Field estabished that only one examiner is assigned to cover the CIA budget and only one to the National Security Agency budget, which is even larger. Lynn granted that the question of manpower assigned to oversight is an area that OMB is reviewing.

Rep. Robert Giaimo (D-Conn.) pressed Lynn without much success on whether OMB examiners have knowledge of secret surveillance of Communications by American citizens. Lynn said he could not assure him whether such operations are under way. Giaimo asked Lynn what he would do if OMB discovered clearly illegal activities in the intelligence budgets

"I would certainly bring it to their attention," Lynn said, "and if I didn't get satisfaction I would take it higher."

In a prepared statement read yesterday to the Associated Press, Agnew said he wants to testify "because of the irresponsible rumors and publicity about my having knowledge involving the former Greek government with contributions through the CIA to the Nixon-Agnew campaign."

Agnew denied contact with anyone in the Greek government about contributions and denied knowledge of any linkage between campaign contributions from prominent Greek-Americans and the government in Athens.